

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed March 26, 2004. Claims 1-32 remain pending in the application.

The Office Action requested references describing various technologies discussed in Applicant's specification. Applicant has submitted the requested references in an Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith.

Section 103(a) Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-30, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peek (U.S. Pat. No. 5,481,706) in view of Gamma et al. ("Design Patterns," pages 127-134, hereinafter "Gamma"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Peek discloses a system and method for creating thread-safe shared libraries. Functions are made thread-safe by repackaging each of them with a lockable "wrapper." The repackaged functions are addressable with new file descriptors. The table of contents for the shared library is modified so that function calls return the new file descriptors for the repackaged, thread-safe functions. Upon being called, a repackaged function is globally locked. Upon the function's exit, it is unlocked.

Peek does not teach or suggest the limitation "wherein the method [invoked by a first thread in a first application] comprises an identifier, and wherein the identifier initially comprises an original value which associates the method with the first thread." The Office Action contended that Peek's function descriptor 32 and paths 36 and 48 (as shown in Fig. 2) teach or suggest this limitation. Applicant respectfully disagrees. There is no suggestion or teaching in Peek that the function descriptor "comprises" paths 36 and 48, nor that paths 36 and 48 "associate the [called] method with the [calling] thread." Paths 36 and 48 always point from the table of contents of the

shared library to the function descriptor and the function code in the same way, regardless of the identity of the calling thread. In other words, paths 36 and 48 do not vary depending upon the identity of the calling thread. Therefore, Applicant submits that paths 36 and 48 do not “associate the [called] method with the [calling] thread.”

Peek does not teach or suggest the limitation “wherein the class is executable to ... modify the identifier in response to the first thread invoking the method such that the identifier comprises a temporary value, wherein the temporary value indicates that a single copy of the class is to be shared by the plurality of applications.” In Peek, the function is repackaged and remapped in advance, prior to being called, when the shared library is rebuilt to be thread-safe. (See, for example, col. 8, lines 4-17 and col. 9, lines 41-67.) Therefore, the modification of any identifier in Peek does not occur “in response to the first thread invoking the method.” The only modification to Peek’s function at runtime (i.e., in response to the function being called) is the locking of the function, and that modification teaches away from the limitation that “the temporary value indicates that a single copy of the class is to be shared by the plurality of applications.” Furthermore, although the Office Action contended that the modified function descriptor 38 is a “temporary value,” Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in Peek that the modified function descriptor 38 is ever destroyed, abandoned, or otherwise considered to be “temporary.”

Peek does not teach or suggest the limitation “wherein the class is executable to ... modify the identifier in response to exiting the method such that the identifier comprises the original value which associates the method with the first thread.” The Office Action contended that Peek teaches or suggest this limitation through the unlocking of its thread-safe function upon function exit (col. 6, lines 6-57; col. 8, lines 18-46; Figs. 2-4). Applicant respectfully disagrees. There is no teaching or suggestion in Peek that any “original value which associates the method with the first [calling] thread” is restored upon the exiting of the method. The only modification to Peek’s function at function exit is the removal of the lock. However, the “original value” of the lock (i.e., its unlocked status) does not associate the called function with the calling thread or any

other particular thread.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 12, and 22 are in condition for allowance. Applicant's remaining claims provide additional limitations to the claim limitations discussed above. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that Peek in view of Gamma does not teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention as recited in claims 1-32. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejections of claims 1-32.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10, 20, and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10, 20, and 31 are allowable in their present form.

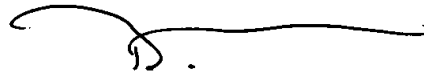
CONCLUSION

Applicant asserts that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the present response is believed to be a complete response to the issues raised in the Office Action and full reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference. If any petitions for extensions of time are required or fees are due, said petitions for extensions of time are hereby requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5181-22900/BNK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,



B. Noël Kivlin
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 33,929

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
Fax: (512) 853-8801
Date: June 28, 2004